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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/526,174 | 03/14/2005 | Ole Steen Sciersen | 123037 | 6881 |
| 25944 | 7590 | 08/10/2007 | | |
| OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320 | | | EXAMINER LAXTON, GARY L | |
| | | | ART UNIT 2838 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | MAIL DATE 08/10/2007 | DELIVERY MODE PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/526,174 | Applicant(s) SEIERSEN, OLE STEEN | |
| | Examiner Gary L. Laxton | Art Unit 2838 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/5/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Donohue (US 6,177,783).

Donohue discloses a circuit (200) configured for coupling a number of power-supplying modules to a common point (206), wherein the circuit comprises an electronically controlled transistor element (e.g. Q1) configured for conveying a current of a magnitude belonging within a predefined range, a device for detecting the direction of the current (U1), and a control circuit (e.g. U2 et al.) configured for controlling the transistor element (Q1) in such a manner that a current from the common point to one of the modules can be essentially prevented, characterized

in that the transistor element (Q1) can be controlled in such a manner that a pre-selected voltage drop is produced across the transistor element (Q1) independently of the current magnitude.

4. Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kubach et al. (US 4,293,812).

Kubach et al., figures 5 and 6, disclose a circuit configured for coupling a number of power-supplying modules to a common point (14), wherein the circuit comprises an electronically controlled transistor element (e.g. 11, 31) configured for conveying a current of a magnitude belonging within a predefined range, a device for detecting the direction of the current (37), and a control circuit (e.g. 22, 42, 21, 41, 39, 18, 38, 15) configured for controlling the transistor element (11, 31) in such a manner that a current from the common point to one of the modules can be essentially prevented, characterized in that the transistor element (11, 31) can be controlled in such a manner that a pre-selected voltage drop is produced across the transistor element (11, 31) independently of the current magnitude.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

7. Claims 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Donohue in view of Minks (US 4,791,349).

Donohue discloses the claimed invention in regards to claims 1 and 7 supra, except for transistor element comprises a number of transistor elements interconnected in parallel.

Minks teaches coupling a number of transistor elements interconnected in parallel (Q7-Q12) in order to provide very high current and gain to the load circuit.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Donohue to include a number of transistor elements interconnected in parallel in order to provide very high current and high gain to the load as taught by Minks.

8. Claims 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubach et al. in view of Minks.

Kubach et al. disclose the claimed invention in regards to claims 1 and 7 supra, except for transistor element comprises a number of transistor elements interconnected in parallel.

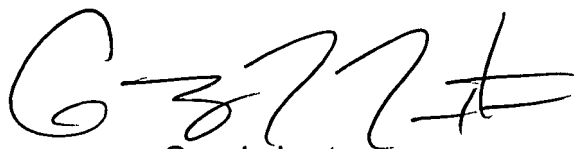
Minks teaches coupling a number of transistor elements interconnected in parallel (Q7-Q12) in order to provide very high current and gain to the load circuit.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kubach et al. to include a number of transistor elements interconnected in parallel in order to provide very high current and high gain to the load as taught by Minks.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary L. Laxton whose telephone number is (571) 272-2079. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Karl Easthom can be reached on (571) 272-1989. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G-Laxton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gary L. Laxton
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2838

8/6/2007